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Attorney General Carter launches inquiry into management of trust funds

Indianapolis, IN – Attorney General Steve Carter will initiate a thorough review as to the proper allocation of charitable trust funds to support the Conner Prairie living-history museum based in Fishers.

“There have been serious claims brought to my attention about potential misallocation of trust funds that warrants review by this office,” Carter said. “Our primary focus will be on whether or not charitable donations have been managed and distributed in the manner intended by the donors.”

Former board members of the museum approached Carter’s office with concerns about distribution of funds from the trust following their firing earlier this month by Earlham College, which controls the museum.

Conner Prairie, which provides a valuable cultural experience for people of all ages, is an integral part of the Central Indiana community. Earlham College is a valued institution of higher learning in our state.

The Attorney General’s inquiry into Earlham College’s actions as trustee of the funds will include gathering the appropriate financial records and documents from all relevant parties. The length of the inquiry will be dependent upon the volume of material collected for review.

The state inquiry will be limited in scope to any misallocation of trust funds and possible conflict of interest by Earlham College authorities in their role as trustee of these funds. The Board has current oversight of the trust fund while also serving a fiscal responsibility to the College.

“We all are interested in the long-term viability of Conner Prairie and Earlham College,” Carter added. “I pledge to fulfill my duty to review the information as quickly as possible, as thoroughly as possible and be fair in our review and to do the right thing on behalf of the public interest.”